THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Government of Punjab, census of Blue Bull and Wild Boar has been conducted. No survey has been conducted in respect of stray animals in this area.

(c) The precautionary measures taken by the State Government include growing fodder grass and improving habitat for the wildlife to minimize straying into agricultural fields. Chief Wildlife Warden of Punjab has been empowered under section 11(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to permit hunting of animal or group of animals' which have become dangerous to human life or to property including standing crops on any land.

Forest guards

1340. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how the Government have utilized Rs.68 lakhs approved for deployment of forest guards and involving local population during rainy-season, in tiger protection in several tiger reserves;

(b) whether Government are aware that forest guards so deployed are unarmed and lack basic facilities such as lighting equipments and communication network and how Government propose to equip them to confront a sophisticated armed poacher; and

(c) whether the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are adequately deterrent or they require amendments to give more teeth to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) An amount of Rs. 75.74 lakhs was provided to 11 Tiger Reserves, based on their proposals, for monsoon patrolling. The initiatives taken by the reserves, as reported by them, are given in the statement (See below).

(b) Central Assistance is provided for anti-poaching and deployment of special protection squads to complement the field staff, based on

proposals received from States within the ambit of Project Tiger Guidelines. Based on proposals contained in Annual Plan of Operations from States, Central Assistance is provided for field gear and equipments to staff.

(c) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended in 2003, making it more stringent for preventing wildlife crimes in the country.

Statement

Initiatives taken by the Tiger Reserves towards monsoon patrolling

(1) Pakke Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh)

- Patrolling in vulnerable areas: On four different occasions, the patrolling party encountered poachers. Five unidentified poachers have been killed, apart from two receiving injuries. Ammunition and animal meats have been recovered from the poachers.
- Special raids: Special raids were conducted in fringe areas with the help of police personnel from Arunachal Pradesh as well as Assam. Several traps and snares have been seized.
- The patrolling teams were provided incentives and fields gear for undertaking the task. Two forest guards have also been rewarded by the State for act of bravery.

(2) Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)

- 25 patrolling squads have been constituted for patrolling entry points, boundary, areas close to transmission lines, waterholes, salt licks and market places. Each squad has three to five persons drawn from the patrolling camps. As an additionality, 25 labourers have been specially deployed towards patrolling.
- Four ex-servicemen of the level of JCO have been deployed to train the patrolling staff during the year.

(3) Palamau Tiger Reserve (Jharkhand)

- An armed force section of 24 : 6 has already been deployed exclusively for patrolling in the Tiger Reserve and the force is being utilized for the purpose.

- The entire Palamau Tiger Reserve has been divided into 30 zones with exclusive deployment of three staff in each zone for patrolling.
- In each zone 5 local villagers nominated by EDCs have been deputed for keeping special watch on waterholes and grassland located in the zone.
- The Deputy Commissioner of the district has been requested to cancel the arm licenses issued in and around the tiger reserve without prior concurrence of the Chief Wildlife Warden. The matter is being actively pursued with the Deputy Commissioner, Latehar.
- In all Ranges crime dossiers of people having past background of poaching and wildlife trade have been updated and special vigil is being kept.
- All entry and exit points, check makas have been kept under strict surveillance.
- Steps have been initiated to fill up the vacant posts of Foresters & Forest Guards through recruitment and deployment.

(4) Valmiki Tiger Reserve (Bihar)

- Constitution of patrolling teams
- Vigilance on specified areas and entry and exit routes
- Measures for control of grazing
- Control on entry and movement of vehicles in the Sanctuary and National Park area & vigilance and surveillance of sensitive sites
- vehicle deployment
- Emergency medical relief for patrolling parties (in case of snake bites, malaria, encephalitis)
- Regular reporting
- Additional manpower, vehicles have been provided, apart from resorting to patrolling by elephants
- As many as eight persons have been apprehended for offences relating to illicit cutting of trees, out of which six have been sent to judicial custody.

(5) Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan)

- 100 Home Guards and 30 Rajasthan Armed Constabulary personnel deployed in addition to local staff.
- One patrolling squad deployed at HQ. for instant action.
- Tiger Reserve has been closed during the monsoon for the first time.

(6) Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan)

- 150 Home Guards and 55 Rajasthan Armed Constabulary personnel deployed at sensitive places in addition to local staff.
- Tracking report monitored regularly.

Encouraging setting up of FPIs

†1341. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently taken certain steps to encourage setting up of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken;

(c) the details of the products for which Government are considering to extend economic assistance for their processing; and

(d) whether this assistance is for certain special places (districts) or for all places in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Government has already formulated and implemented a Plan Scheme which provides financial assistance for technology upgradation/ establishment/modernization of food processing units in the country. The Scheme is project specific not State/area specific. It covers all segments *viz* fruits & vegetables, milk products, bakery and confectionary products, meat, poultry, fishery, oil seeds, spices, coconut and mushroom. Under

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.